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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,200	09/18/2003	Hun Choi	091781.00004	7823

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-2040

EXAMINER
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BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/666,200	CHOI, HUN	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Mark J. Beauchaine	3653	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims are objected to because of the following informalities:

The terms "a signals" (claim 21, line 9), "number of amount" (claim 22, line 22) and "number coins" (claim 30, line 3) are improper grammar.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following terms lack sufficient antecedent bases:

“second sensing hole” (claim 1, line 14; claim 9, line 22; and claim 17, line 25),  
“second sensing means” (claim 17, line 2 of second page; and claim 21, line 7),  
and  
“coin receiving tube” (claim 21, line 8).

The term “is started or stopped” (claim 23, lines 9 and 10 second page) is  
ambiguous since it is unclear what apparatus component performs the operation(s).

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that  
form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed  
publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by  
Patent Number US 6,371,845 B1 by Ishida et al (“Ishida”). The coin sorting apparatus  
disclosed by Ishida comprises coin sorting means 16-1, 16-2 and 16-3, guide 3-2, first  
sensing means 17, second sensing means 43-1, 43-2 and 43-3 for detecting the  
displacement of coin receiving tubes A-E, and microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin  
sorting apparatus in according to signals produced by the second sensing means.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of Patent Number 3,002,601 by Reis ("Reis"). The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Ishida comprises coin sorting means 16-1, 16-2 and 16-3, guide 3-2, first sensing means 17, second sensing means 43-1, 43-2 and 43-3 for detecting the displacement of coin receiving tubes A-E, and microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus in according to signals produced by the second sensing means. Ishida fails to disclose a display device. Reis teaches control/display device 31, 32 and 33 for the purpose of displaying the number of amount of sorted coin detected by the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the display device of Reis into the apparatus of Ishida for the purpose of displaying the number of amount of sorted coin detected by the apparatus.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in as applied to claim 23 above, in further view of Patent Number 6,021,883 by Casanova et al ("Casanova"). Ishida fails to disclose a speaker. Casanova teaches a coin

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processing apparatus incorporating a speaker (column 4, line 67) for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the speaker of Casanova into the apparatus of Ishida for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus.

Claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of Patent Application Publication Number US 2006/0054457 A1 by Long et al ("Long"). The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Ishida comprises first sensing means 17 and microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus. Ishida fails to disclose a user interface or display. Long teaches a coin sorting apparatus incorporating user interface/display 12 for the purpose of allowing the user to control the coin sorting apparatus and displaying an operation state of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the user interface/display 12 of Long into the apparatus of Ishida for the purpose of allowing the user to control the coin sorting apparatus and displaying an operation state of the apparatus.

Claims 31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number US 6,772,870 B2 by Sugai et al ("Sugai") in view of Ishida. The coin processing apparatus disclosed by Sugai is operated by separating coins by size (via token discerner 31), detecting the number of sorted coins (via token discerner 31),

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stopping an operation of coin sorting when it is detected that a predetermined number of coins having a predetermined size is sorted (column 4, lines 23-32) and displaying an image to let the user identify a stop operation (via display 9). Sugai fails to disclose the step of operating again the coin sorting step when coin receiving means is displaced to a predetermined position. Ishida teaches the operation of a coin sorting apparatus once coin receiving means 4 is displaced to a predetermined location attached to apparatus 1 for the purpose of continuing the sorting process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporating the counting restart operation of Ishida into the operation of Sugai for the purpose of continuing the coin sorting process.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugai in view of Ishida as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of Patent Number US 6,484,863 B1 by Molbak ("Molbak"). Sugai fails to disclose the stopping of the sorting operation when the number of coins being sorted is not increased for a predetermined time. Molbak teaches a sorting operation that stops a coin sorting operation after no coin is detected for a predetermined time (column 19, lines 22-24) for the purpose of automatically stopping the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sorting stop operation of Molbak into the sorting operation of Sugai for the purpose of automatically stopping the apparatus.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 9 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mjb



**PATRICK MACKEY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**